

ZECHARIAH

Chapter 2

Vision of a Man with a Measuring Line

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! 2 Then I said, “Where are you going?” And he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.” 3 And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him 4 and said to him, “Run, say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. 5 And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.’” 6 Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD. 7 Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. 8 For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: 9 “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me. 10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. 11 And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. 12 And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” 13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

2:1–13 The third vision. There will be full restoration and blessing for the covenant people, temple and city. (CSB)

2:1 *lifted my eyes and saw.* Zechariah’s third vision. (TLSB)

measuring line. To measure distances (e.g., tape measure); different from the line in 1:16. (TLSB)

2:2 *measure Jerusalem* – That one should measure the width and the length of a city is not unusual. Ezekiel had a similar vision (Ez 40:3), as did John (Rev. 21:15-17) (TLSB)

2:3 *angel who talked to me* – Likely one of higher rank who would convey supernatural information. (TLSB)

2:4 *young man.* Evidently Zechariah. (CSB)

The man with a measuring line (v 1) (TLSB)

without walls. The city’s population will overflow to the point that it will be as though it had no walls (see 10:8, 10). (CSB)

This literally means “as open country.” The prophet was granted a vision that rises above his own time and place. He beheld the universal Church, a city without walls, with inhabitants “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Rev. 7:9) (TLSB)

2:5 *wall of fire.* Here symbolic of divine protection (see Ex 13:21). (CSB)

God's personal presence will afford much better protection than any city wall or humanly contrived security system. (TLSB)

glory. New Jerusalem has no need of sun or moon, "for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rv 21:23). (TLSB)

This would be so that His blessings would rest upon her and His name be praised within her. So much being established, the prophet is given a summary of what he should proclaim to this Church of the Lord. (Kretzmann)

2:6–13 Not part of the third vision, but an expansion on some of the themes found in the first three visions. (TLSB)

2:6 *up! Up!* There is urgency in the Lord's admonition. (TLSB)

land of the north. Babylon (v. 7) invaded Judah from the north (Jer 1:14; 4:6; 6:1, 22; 10:22). (CSB)

Judeans living in Babylon are encouraged to come to Jerusalem. (TLSB)

to the four winds. In all directions. The exiles would return from north, south, east and west (Isa 43:5–6; 49:12). (CSB)

The second vision pictured how the four horns scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem (1:19). (TLSB)

In the New Testament Church which extends to the most remote ends of the world. (Kretzmann)

2:7 *Up* – KJV has Ho. Ho, Zion, save thyself!" This is the separation between the children of God and the children of the world being absolute, even if not local. Cf. 2 Cor. 6,17. (Kretzmann)

Zion. Jerusalem's exiles in Babylon. (CSB)

Escape ... Babylon. Cf. Rev 18:4–8. (CSB)

The thought of v 6 is repeated for emphasis. (TLSB)

For the daughter of Zion to remain in this heathen city was to risk spiritual death. (TLSB)

2:8 *glory* – This is the visible manifestation from which God spoke to Zechariah (cf. Ex 40:34). (TLSB)

apple of his eye. God's people are compared to the pupil of the eye. Just as a person is protective of this sensitive part of the body, so God hurts when His people hurt. (TLSB)

So dear are the believers, the members of the Church, in the eyes of the Lord. Every adversary who dares to touch the kingdom of God and its members thereby becomes guilty of a blasphemous act, which grieves the Lord most deeply. This insult Jehovah will not accept without the most emphatic resentment; He will punish the people, He will visit their sins upon them. (Kretzmann)

2:9 *hand.* Power. (CSB)

With a wave of the hand, the Lord dismisses those who threaten His people. (TLSB)

become plunder – God will cause servants to overthrow their masters and seize their goods. (TLSB)

Lord of hosts has sent me – This means that through Him the great Sovereign of the earth was carrying out His punishment upon the enemies of His Church. For this reason the people of the Lord are exhorted to sing praises to Him. (Kretzmann)

2:10 *Sing ... daughter of Zion.* As the opposite of the “daughter of Babylon” (v 7), those who belong to the city of God are encouraged to break into song. Mary is an example of one who did, singing her Magnificat (Lk 1:46–55). (TLSB)

I will dwell in your midst. Not only did God come to the restored temple, but He also came in the fullness of time (Gal. 4:4). Jesus is rightly called Immanuel, for He is “God with us” (Is 7:14; Mt 1:23) and remains with us through Word and Sacrament. (TLSB)

2:11 *Many nations.* In fulfillment of the promise to Abraham (Ge 12:3; cf. Zec. 8:20–23; Ge 18:18; 22:18; Isa 2:2–4; 60:3). (CSB)

join themselves to the LORD. Nations’ alienation from the God of Israel will become a thing of the past as many of them are added to His people. (TLSB)

that day. The day of the Lord. (CSB)

Prophets often use this expression when referring to the NT era (cf Zep 3:11, 16; Zec 13:1). (TLSB)

sent me. Third occurrence of these words (vv 8–9) suggests that not everyone was ready to accept Zechariah as a prophet sent by the Lord. Moses had the same concern (Ex 3:13–15). (TLSB)

2:12 *inherit Judah as His portion.* Faithful remnant needed assurance that God continued to regard them as His special possession (Dt 7:6). (TLSB)

holy land. This designation occurs only here in Scripture. The land was rendered holy chiefly because it was the site of the earthly throne and sanctuary of the holy King, who dwelt there among his covenant people. (CSB)

One of two biblical occurrences (cf. Ps. 78:54) of this term, which has become common today. However, every corner of the earth where the Lord comes and dwells with His faithful people is “holy land.” (TLSB)

2:13 *Be silent... before the LORD.* This is the appropriate response before the Lord. (TLSB)

roused himself. To judge (cf. v. 9). (CSB)

In contrast to dead idols, God is alive. (TLSB)

He is preparing to rise from His throne in heaven to visit the enemies with His righteous punishment and to lead His children to glory. Cf. Ps. 76, 8, 9; Zeph. 1, 7. (Kretzmann)

holy dwelling. God’s heavenly habitation (Dt 26:15). (TLSB)

2:1–13 A measuring line will not do when seeking to determine the extent of God’s kingdom. His promise to dwell in Jerusalem’s earthly temple pales in splendor to what is to come. Zechariah saw a glorious future for the people of Judah, but he did not understand how great would be the fulfillment of God’s promises in Jesus Christ and the heavenly Jerusalem. Likewise, the eyes of our faith see only dimly the glory that will be revealed to us. • Praise to You, O Jesus, for coming to dwell among us with Your grace and truth. Keep our eyes ever focused on the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen. (TLSB)